

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 02155 080838Z

43

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 IO-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGR-10 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05

L-02 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 AID-05 CIEP-02 SS-15

STR-04 TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01

XMB-04 OIC-02 /132 W
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R 080745Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5433

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMCONSUL BRISBANE

AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

AMCONSUL PERTH

AMCONSUL SYDNEY

UNCLAS CANBERRA 2155

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, GATT, OECD, AS

SUBJ: AUSTRALIAN IMPORT RESTRICTIONS: DECISION NOT TO
RESTRAIN FINE PAPER IMPORTS ANNOUNCED

REF: CANBERRA 1917

1. TEXT OF SPECIAL MINISTER OF STATE (SMOS) PRESS
RELEASE ANNOUNCING DECISION NOT TO RESTRICT FINE PAPER
IMPORTS FOLLOWS:

2. "SMOS LIONEL BOWEN, WHEN RELEASING TEMPORARY
ASSISTANCE AUTHORITY'S (TAA) REPORT ON PAPER TODAY,
ANNOUNCED GOA HAD ACCEPTED FINDING OF TAA THAT URGENT
ACTION WAS NOT NECESSARY TO PROTECT AUSTRALIAN INDUSTRY
AGAINST IMPORTS OF FINE PAPERS.

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 CANBER 02155 080838Z

3. "BOWEN SAID THAT REPORT SHOWED THAT WHILST IMPORTS IN FY74 OF GOODS UNDER REFERENCE WERE 32 PERCENT HIGHER THAN FY 73, IMPORTS IN FY75 UP TO FEBRUARY 1975 SHOWED A DECLINE. IN OCTOBER 1974 IMPORTS EXCEEDED 5,000 TONNES BUT HAVE SINCE SHARPLY DECLINED TO AN ESTIMATED 1,000 TONNES DURING FEBRUARY 1975. THIS WAS IN LINE WITH WEAKENING IN DOMESTIC DEMAND FOR PAPER.

4. "TAA SAID THAT OUTLOOK FOR NEXT SIX MONTHS POINTS STRONGLY TO VOLUME OF IMPORTS OF FINE PAPERS CONTINUING AT VERY LOW LEVEL AND BEING CONFINED TO GRADES ESSENTIALLY FOR IMMEDIATE USE AND NOT USUALLY AVAILABLE FROM APPM MILLS.

5. "BOWEN SAID THAT REPORT INDICATED THAT ANY ACTION TO RESTRICT PRESENT LOW VOLUME OF IMPORTS WOULD DO LITTLE IF ANYTHING TO ASSIST LOCAL MANUFACTURER. HOWEVER, TAA STRONGLY SUGGESTED THAT DEPARTMENT OF MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY (DMI) MAINTAIN CONSTANT WATCH ON LEVEL OF IMPORTS TO ENSURE THAT NO UNFORESEEN TRENDS DEVELOP WHICH WOULD JUSTIFY FURTHER REFERENCE TO TAA.

6. "DMI HAS ALREADY ARRANGED TO MONITOR IMPORTS AND IT HAS BEEN DECIDED THAT WHEN LEVEL OF DUTIABLE IMPORTS OF PAPERS CONCERNED REACHED CUMULATIVE TOTAL OF 7,000 TONNES OVER THREE SUCCESSIVE MONTHS OR WHEN THERE IS FIRM EVIDENCE THAT IMPORTS WILL REACH THIS LEVEL, THE MATTER WILL AGAIN BE REFERRED TO TAA.

7. "BOWEN SAID THAT DISCUSSIONS ON REPORT HAD ALREADY BEEN HELD BETWEEN MINISTER FOR MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY, SENATOR JAMES MCCLELLAND, AND INTERESTED PARTIES. DISCUSSIONS ON WAYS OF HELPING COMPANY OVERCOME ITS PRESENT DIFFICULTIES AND MAINTAIN EMPLOYMENT CONTINUING."

8. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH THIS IS SECOND RECENT "FAVORABLE" DECISION BY SMOS (CHAIN SAWS WERE SUBJECT OF PREVIOUS ONE -- SEE REFTEL) WE DOUBT THERE IS ANY CONNECTION BETWEEN THESE DECISIONS AND PRESSURES ON AUSTRALIANS IN BOTH MULTILATERAL FORA AND BILATERAL REPRESENTATIONS.
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PAGE 03 CANBER 02155 080838Z

WE UNDERSTAND, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT FURTHER DECISION IS ABOUT TO BE ANNOUNCED ON TEXTILE FLOOR COVERINGS WHICH WILL INVOLVE SIGNIFICANT RESTRICTIONS.

9. MEANWHILE WE HAVE RECEIVED NOTIFICATION FROM DMI THAT REQUEST FOR PROTECTION FROM IMPORTS OF EVAPORATIVE AIR CONDITIONERS HAS BEEN RECEIVED. THIS INVOLVES SUBSTANTIAL US TRADE INTEREST AND WILL BE SUBJECT OF

SEPTEL.
GREEN

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